

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEDAN 00145 020834Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 /056 W

-----020852Z 090888 /20

P 020820Z MAY 77

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 698

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0145

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ID

SUBJ: ELECTION DAY IN MEDAN

1. MEDAN HAS BEEN EXTREMELY QUIET IN PAST SEVERAL DAYS AND IS PARTICULARLY SO ON THIS ELECTION DAY. A FEW SECURITY FORCES WERE TO BE SEEN PATROLLING THE CITY EARLY IN THE MORNING BUT BY MID-MORNING ALMOST ALL HAD DISAPPEARED FROM THE STREETS LEAVING ONLY A MINIMAL NUMBER OF HANSIP TROOPS. CONOFFS SPENT ABOUT ONE AND ONE-HALF HOURS IN THE MORNING AND ANOTHER HOUR IN THE AFTERNOON DRIVING THROUGH ALL SECTIONS OF THE CITY TO OBSERVE ACTIVITY AT DOZENS OF TPS'S. CALM PREVAILED EVERYWHERE. EVEN AFTER TWO P.M. WHEN COUNTING PROCEDURE UNDERWAY, VERY FEW PEOPLE WERE TO BE SEEN AROUND POLLING STATIONS. PERHAPS THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED AWAY, BUT MORE GENERAL IMPRESSION WAS THAT FEW WERE INTERESTED IN STAYING AROUND TO WATCH THE COUNTING.

2. THERE IS STILL MUCH SPECULATION THAT SUPPORT FOR THE PPP SURGED IN CLOSING DAYS OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, EVEN IN AREAS THROUGHT TO BE STRONGHOLDS FOR THE PPP, THE ATMOSPHERE WAS CALM WITH FEW PEOPLE SEEN AROUND THE POLLING STATIONS.

3. WHILE ELECTION DAY WAS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE A HOLIDAY, MOST SHOPS
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IN MEDAN HAVE BEEN CLOSED ALL DAY AND TRAFFIC HAS BEEN EXTREMELY LIGHT. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND BANKS WERE OPEN BUT SEEMED TO BE DOING LITTLE BUSINESS. BUSES AND BECAKS ALMOST DISAPPEARED FROM THE STREETS, AND ONLY NOW (AFTER THREE P.M. LOCAL TIME) ARE THINGS BEGINNING TO SHOW SIGNS OF RETURNING TO NORMAL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY.
KILPATRICK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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